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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4 of the Second Extraordinary Session
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joseph F. Dyer, Sr. of
Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Joe F. Dyer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Dr. Lex and Audra Haynes Dyer and a longtime resident of Putnam County, Joe Dyer was a highly respected member of the Cookeville community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer was a real estate broker, land surveyor, funeral director and newspaperman, all positions in which he earned the respect of his peers for the superior quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Joe F. Dyer was profoundly committed to serving his fellow citizens as a public official. He served two terms as a distinguished member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly from 1955-57 and 1959-61 and was then elected as a delegate to the 1965 Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer served on the Putnam County School Board in the 1970s and served two terms on the Putnam County Commission as well as on the county beer board and fair board; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the real estate business, he ran for many local public offices, losing most races, but never shying away from voicing his opinions on issues.

Those opinions were forceful, and inspired surprise, amusement or anger by their brashness, but never went unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, during an unsuccessful 1984 race, Joe Dyer issued a statement citing his positions on various issues and concluding with the observation, "I have always tried to carry out my platform. I have never had to take the side road to avoid talking to any person. I have never passed up a person without speaking to him or her. I don't feel that I have ever been defeated, as right will always win out."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer took great pride in never accepting campaign contributions; he reported on one campaign disclosure that he had spent a grand total of fifteen cents during the campaign, and that amount was for a stamp to mail the disclosure form; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dyer was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer served his country during the Second World War and was a past commander of the American Legion, Post 46; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dyer enjoyed the loving companionship of Nell Gentry Dyer and was the proud parent of daughter Judy, and sons Joseph F., Jr., Charles, Gary, and William (Bill) Dyer, and had ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Cookeville, Putnam County, and Tennessee were the undoubted beneficiaries of the public service of this colorful and feisty Tennessean, who acted on behalf of his constituents with energy, forthrightness and courage; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Joseph F. Dyer, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Joe F. Dyer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.